

Torrance, California
April 2, 1946

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, April 2, 1946 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Cucci.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full "Certificate of City Clerk on Genuineness and Sufficiency of Signatures" to Petitions in the matter of Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance), the Certificate containing information that said petitions are signed by more than 10% of the qualified electors residing in the territory described in the petitions, which is thereby proposed to be formed into a water district, and that the signatures to the petitions are genuine, in all respects properly and sufficiently signed, and that the number of qualified signers of said petitions is forty-three.

Following reading of the certificate of the City Clerk, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to prepare an ordinance of intention, being an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Torrance, California, declaring the intention of said City Council of said City of Torrance to call an election under the

Municipal Water District Act of 1935. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES:
 COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication, bearing 12 signatures, was read, calling attention to the poor drainage and street conditions existing on Bailey and Hickman Drives in North Torrance, and suggesting that the streets be properly graded and repaired as a remedy.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to the City Engineer for report to the City Council at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from C. C. Patterson, requesting removal of a pepper tree from 1714 Watson Street (corner of Watson and Manuel Streets) in order that his new residence, which is under construction on this property, may be completed in accordance with present plans. He stated that, due to the unusual shape of the property, he had expended a considerable sum of money to have a house designed which will be a credit to the community. However, he continued, upon submitting his request to the office of the City Engineer that the tree, which appears to be diseased and stunted, be removed in order that he may construct his driveway according to plans, he had been informed that the tree cannot be removed, and that he must construct a curved driveway to enter his garage from Manuel Street. This would result, he claimed, in great inconvenience in the use of the driveway, and would also ruin the architectural design of the surroundings.

Councilman Gilbert suggested referring this matter to the City Engineer, adding that a number of matters have been brought to the City Council recently with the claim that the City Engineer's office had advised certain things, when, as a matter of fact, in many instances, Mr. Jain, the City Engineer, has heard nothing of the matter whatsoever. He said he felt the matter should be discussed with Mr. Jain, and that, in this particular case, where the tree interferes with proposed construction, Mr. Jain would no doubt render a favorable decision.

Councilman Powell commented that, rather than delay the matter further, the Council act at this time, and added that the investment made by Mr. Patterson in this property warrants cooperation of the City in authorizing removal of a tree which interferes with architectural plans.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Mr. Patterson that the pepper tree at 1714 Watson Street be removed, on the grounds that it interferes with architectural plans of his new residence under construction on this property, be granted, and that the City Engineer be advised of the action of the Council in this matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert commented that he had not meant to object to removal of the tree, but had wanted it made clear in defense of Mr. Jain, that Mr. Jain, City Engineer, sometimes has no knowledge of various matters which are brought to the City Council with the information that the City Engineer said this or that could or could not be done.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Park Department be authorized to remove a tree from 1551 Post Avenue, and a tree from the corner of 218th Street and Arlington Avenue (the Whitney residence). Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Real Estate Firm of Redlich and Covington, signed by F. A. Covington, advising that the firm has recently purchased the 36½ acre tract of land at the corner of Hawthorne Avenue and 182nd Street in North Torrance, known as Tract No. 10216, and inquiring whether or not the City of Torrance will surface the streets without assessment or expense to the Tract or property owners. It was stated that they understand this has been the practice of the City in the past in the case of existing subdivisions, advising that this tract is already subdivided into one-half acre parcels and fifty foot lots, and that they are having curbs, gutters and water mains installed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this communication be referred to the City Engineer with the request that he furnish an estimate at the next meeting of the cost of performing the work as above requested. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, in connection with a petition read at the last meeting requesting removal of the boulevard stop sign at 220th Street and Arlington Avenue. Chief Stroh advised in his communication that, after checking the petition, he had found that it contained signatures of very few people who are parents of children attending Torrance schools, and that, as a matter of fact, most of the signers to the petition reside in Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington and Redondo Beach. Chief Stroh stated that this intersection is used continually by children going to and from school, and that, even during the summer months, the school grounds are used by the children, during which months there is no guard on duty. Even while there is a guard on duty, he said, it very often happens that the cars refuse to stop and let children cross the street, although the guard signals for them to stop. He said this is a busy street upon which traffic moves fast, and that he would not personally assume any responsibility for a child being injured if the sign were to be removed. He called attention to the fact that a recent report from the U. S. Traffic Bureau indicates that there have been a staggering number of adults and children killed at intersections by failure of drivers to give right of way to pedestrians. Therefore, in view of all these facts, he recommended that the present boulevard stop sign at the intersection of 220th Street and Arlington Avenue be left in place.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council accept the recommendation of Chief Stroh that the stop sign not be removed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell corroborated Chief Stroh's contention that this intersection is used constantly by children going to and from school all year round.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, calling attention to the fact that facilities for parking in the City of Torrance have become a serious problem in the business district and are steadily growing worse. He suggested that the Council make a study of the parking conditions and either make available vacant lots for parking, or approve the installation of parking meters.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to the entire City Council for study. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A petition, bearing 26 signatures, was read, petitioning the City Council to establish and install sidewalks and street curbs on the west side of Fern Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Carson Street.

Councilman Gilbert stated that the petition circulator had obtained signatures of property owners on both sides of the street, and requested that the clause "the west side of" be deleted from the petition in order to include both sides of the street in the request for this improvement.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be referred to the City Engineer for report to the City Council as to estimated cost of complying with the request. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that, due to increased work in the City Court, the salary of the City Judge be adjusted to conform with the salary paid to the City Attorney, effective April 1, 1946. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, was read by Councilman Hitchcock, advising that, at a meeting held with representatives of the Los Angeles City Engineer's Office, it was decided to have a title search made for each parcel of land required for additional rights-of-way for Western Avenue.

It was the recommendation of Mr. Jain that, inasmuch as Los Angeles can do this work for less per parcel than can the Title Company, the City of Los Angeles be authorized to make the title searches and bill the City of Torrance for the cost. It was further recommended that the Council appropriate not to exceed \$1,000.00 for this work, there being approximately fifty parcels to be secured.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$1,000.00 be made for this work in accordance with Engineer Jain's recommendation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be requested to furnish to the City Engineer and Water Superintendent excerpts of the Council Meetings where any and all actions have been taken, or requests for same have been made, regarding the forming of Water Districts in the WALTERIA Area, the North Torrance and Hollywood RIVIERA District; also that these two offices be furnished copies of all reports and maps furnished by the Consulting Engineers (Taylor & Taylor) regarding same, so that the Offices of the City Engineer and Water Superintendent may be fully advised as to all actions taken by the City Council to date; also that these two offices be furnished excerpts from any further meetings of the Council regarding the water districts mentioned, that these offices may keep an up to date file on same; also that the Council go on record that any further requests or communications regarding the water districts will be presented to either or both of these offices for recommendation before any action is taken by the Council; and also that a copy of this action be sent to the Consulting Engineers. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$1,000.00 be made for construction of public rest rooms at the Fern Avenue Playground. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$300.00 be made for 672 feet 2" pipe, 882 feet 1" pipe, and necessary fittings for the installation of the sprinkling system in the soft ball park at the Fern Avenue playground. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Stroh advised that the new taxicab ordinance has just gone into effect, and that applications had been filed by: J. W. Alford, six taxicabs; Charles T. Berry, one taxicab; Marie Frohman, four taxicabs; and Sam LaGrasso, one taxicab. He stated that it is necessary at this time for the Council to approve the rates which have been filed in accordance with the ordinance.

A short discussion ensued at this point as to what is required of the Council according to the ordinance, Attorney McCall stating that, although the new ordinance empowers the Council to establish rates, it is not necessary for the Council to do so as long as matters are running smoothly. However, he said, it is necessary for applicants to file a schedule of rates at the time they make application for taxicab permits.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation at the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh reported that, in connection with the contract the City has with Stone and Myers for ambulance service, he understands that Stone and Myers have sold their ambulance to a Mr. Sullivan, and suggested that the contract be assigned to Mr. Sullivan for ambulance service.

Clerk Bartlett stated that a letter was handed to him during oral communications relative to this subject, and proceeded to read a communication from Stone and Myers, advising that, effective April 1, 1946, Stone and Myers wish to cancel the contract between that firm and the City of Torrance for ambulance service. It was advised that their ambulance has been sold to Mr. Arthur C. Sullivan, 1880 West Carson Street, and suggested that the contract be given to Mr. Sullivan on the same basis as Stone and Myers operated, the contract being due to expire June 30, 1946.

Attorney McCall advised that the old contract between the City and Stone and Myers cannot be assigned, but that a new contract may be drawn up between the City and Mr. Sullivan.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to Attorney McCall, and that he be authorized to prepare a contract between the City of Torrance and Mr. Arthur C. Sullivan, 1880 West Carson Street, for ambulance service, terms to be the same as terms in the contract with Stone and Myers. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chief Stroh brought up the subject of emergency hospital treatment, which subject has been under discussion for some time in the past, since the hospital is dissatisfied with the present arrangement due to the fact that there are numerous times when there is no doctor to administer treatment to the emergency cases which are brought into the hospital. Chief Stroh reported that Doctor Laughon and Doctor Cook have signified their willingness to treat emergency cases for a minimum rate of \$5.00 per call. He said they would like to do this on a trial basis to see whether or not they can continue to do so, based upon the amount of time the doctors have to devote to this work. He said they do not particularly require a contract, but have simply agreed to treat emergency cases which are brought into the Torrance Hospital, which, he said, will solve the problem which has been confronting the hospital of there being no doctors available to treat the cases when they are brought in by order of the Police Department. He recommended that the Council take action to authorize Doctors Laughon and Cook to treat emergency patients on the basis above-mentioned. He said the hospital has expressed willingness, in recent conferences he has had with the Superintendent, to accept the cases, on the basis of the present contract, but does not want the responsibility of calling on doctors to administer to the patients.

Mayor Tolson stated he had recently conferred with one of the members of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Hospital, who had expressed the opinion that the arrangement mentioned by Chief Stroh should work out very satisfactorily.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Doctors Laughon and Cook be designated as Doctors which the Police Department may call upon for treatment of emergency hospital cases where the patients are taken to the Torrance Hospital by order of the Police Department, a minimum rate of \$5.00 per call to be paid, this arrangement to continue for a period of time on this basis in order that the two doctors may determine, from experience with these cases in the matter of time and effort involved, whether or not they can continue the service. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Clerk Bartlett reported that the next regular meeting of the City Council will be held April 9, 1946, Election Night.

At 8:20 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Bartlett
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

Wm. H. Gibson
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE